



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Marc Elrich  
*County Executive*

Adam Ortiz  
*Director*

August 9, 2021

Ms. Stephanie Sienkowski  
Summit Ridge Energy  
1515 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22209

Re: Noise Suppression Plan for Installation of Steel Post Supports for the Fieldcrest Community Solar Project located at Fieldcrest Rd. and Olney Laytonsville Rd. (Rt. 108), Gaithersburg

Dear Ms. Sienkowski:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of the Noise Suppression Plan (NSP) submitted to the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on July 12, 2021, for installation of steel posts as part of the solar project's racking system that will support 6,032 photovoltaic modules.

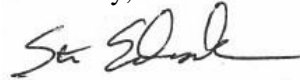
We have completed our review of the plan and found it to be sufficient and approve this plan with the following terms and conditions:

1. This approval is specific to sound levels produced by the installation of steel posts by use of a diesel-powered track-mounted post driver with hydraulic impact hammer.
2. The 85 A-Weighted decibel (dBA) limit only applies from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday for the activities specified in item 1 above. At all other times, including weekday Federal holidays, the maximum noise levels must comply with the noise limits as specified in Section 31B-6 of the Montgomery County Code.
3. During operation the track-mounted post driver shall be oriented so the hammer faces away from the property line, and the post driver should be operated at the minimum power level necessary to complete the task in a safe manner.
4. Installation of posts within 500' of the property line will take place in the late morning through mid-afternoon hours when they are least likely to disturb neighbors.
5. Communicate frequently with the nearby residential community so residents are aware of the work schedule and expected nature and timing of demolition activities.
6. Avoid unnecessary backing of equipment and trucks with tonal back-up alarms. Configure the site to maximize forward movement. Consider using lawful alternatives to factory pre-set backup alarms, such as flag persons or white noise backup alarms.
7. Slamming of tailgates and the intentional dropping of materials into empty trucks are prohibited. Advise all onsite staff, including delivery and dump truck drivers of noise mitigation procedures prior to work.
8. Hauling trucks and equipment shall be operated at the minimum power level necessary to complete the task in a safe manner.

9. Noise mitigation barriers should be erected around loud pieces of stationary machinery (e.g., generators, concrete pumps, etc.) and at the site perimeter where practicable.
10. Avoid prolonged idling of equipment. If equipment is not utilized for long periods, operator should shut off equipment to reduce idling noise.
11. Where possible, schedule the more noise intensive activities for less intrusive times, such as mid-morning to mid-afternoon.
12. Construction equipment shall be equipped with well-maintained and effective mufflers and moving parts shall be well lubricated to avoid unnecessary noise from squeaking parts. Equipment access doors and hatches should remain closed when the units are in operation and all equipment should be operated at the minimum level necessary to get the job done. Minimize banging, clattering, buzzing and other annoying types of noises.
13. Where possible, use the local power grid to reduce the use of generators and internal combustion powered tools.
14. Noise levels will be monitored on a regular basis with the decibel levels and locations of the monitoring sites kept in a log on site, which shall be available for inspection and review upon request.
15. You must maintain a log on site containing detailed information concerning any complaints received regarding noise from this project.
16. DEP may suspend, modify, or revoke this approval for any violation of the terms and conditions of the Noise Suppression Plan.
17. A copy of this approval and the Noise Suppression Plan must be available at the construction site.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Steve Martin at 240-777-7746 or by email at [steve.martin@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:steve.martin@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Sincerely,



Stan Edwards, Chief  
Energy, Climate and Compliance Division

Cc: Adam Ortiz, Director, MC DEP  
Gregory Wims, UpCounty Regional Services Center  
MC Police, 6th District Station